GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1482
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
ROLE OF COAST GUARD .
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role assigned to Coast Guard in its various activities in the EEZ;

(b) whether the Coast Guard`s time is being taken up more by such less important activity than with enhancing security and protecting the country from other country`s naval forces;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to review the extent of time being taken up for such small time activity like commercial exploitation of the EEZ;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to carefully monitor the role of field officers of the Coast Guard and the role they are playing in generally restricting commercial exploitation of our waters;

(e) the number of personnel of Coast Guard devoting their time to office work, etc. in relation to the commercial activity like fishing in our waters;

(f) the steps proposed to review the role and work of the Coast Guard in this matter;

(g) whether there is any proposal to develop one institution for overseeing only commercial activity in the EEZ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) The role of the Coast Guard is to protect the Maritime and other national interests of India in the maritime and Exclusive Economic Zone. Its role includes assistance to fisherman at sea while in distress, Sea Pollution response, Anti-smuggling, Anti-Piracy, Search and Rescue etc.

(b) Protecting the country from other country`s naval forces is the mandated task of the Indian Navy and not of the Coast Guard.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Coast Guard is playing a positive role in safeguarding the commercial exploitation of our waters, specially for fishing. Therefore, no proposal is under consideration for monitoring the role of Field Officers of the Coast Guard.

(e) There are no fixed number of Coast Guard personnel devoting time exclusively for office work in relation to the commercial activity like fishing in our waters and hence cannot be quantified.

(f) Director General Coast Guard & RegionalCommanders through reviews and field visits regularly monitor the working of the field force.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.